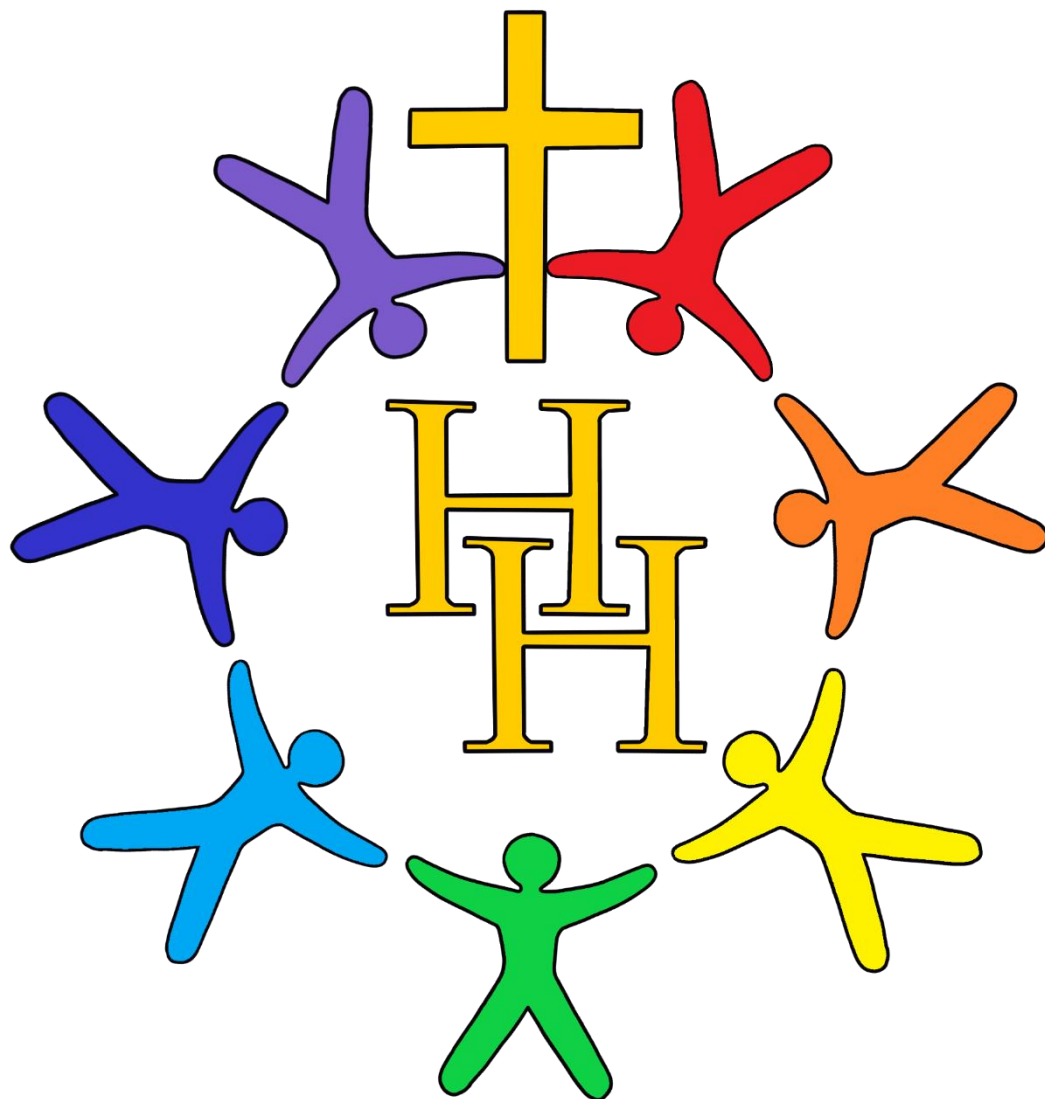


"Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14

Hanging Heaton CE (VC) J&I School



Children Looked After Policy
2026 – 2027

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Introduction

Hanging Heaton School is committed to recognising the uniqueness of an individual and to acknowledge and develop the positive qualities that all have regardless of race, religion, gender or special educational need to achieve their full potential. We are a school committed to the inclusion of all in everything we do and strive to ensure equal opportunities for all to achieve their best.

Our school vision statement shared with stakeholders reflects this belief and what we aim to achieve:

'Let all that you do be done in love' - (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Our vision underpins all that we do in school. This vision, supported by our Christian values which are an essential part of our school lives, allows us to serve our community by providing a high quality education within the context of Christian belief and practice.

Love for learning

We are all on a fun learning journey in order to achieve our full potential
We celebrate and share our successes and achievements

Love for ourselves

We promote a positive, healthy lifestyle and aim to make ourselves the best we can be
We all have our own thoughts, gifts, talents, skills and abilities

Love for one another

We look after one another and show care for everybody
We respect the beliefs and cultures of all communities

Love for our world

We work together to create a warm, safe and stimulating environment
We act to take care of our wonderful world

We aim to develop our children socially, morally, culturally, spiritually and academically to help them to be more valued and responsible citizens. This policy is written to reflect our vision of love and the chosen aims and Christian values of our school for the year.

Definition

'Children Looked After' is a term that refers to children for whom the Local Authority is sharing parental responsibility. This can happen either with parental agreement or when a Court makes a Care Order. The child may be living with foster carers, in a residential unit, with family members or sometimes with their parents. These children are therefore subject to corporate parenting.

This policy includes requirements set out in "Statutory guidance on the duty on local authorities to promote the educational achievement of children under section 52 of the Children Act 2004" and associated guidance on the education of CLA.

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Governor Responsible: Mrs Amanda Farrar

Designated Lead: Mrs S Caspell

Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School recognises that all pupils are entitled to a balanced, broad-based curriculum and aims to promote the educational achievement and welfare of pupils in public care. The school and the governing body endorses the Kirklees Council policy and welcomes Children Looked After (CLA) who may be looked after by our local authority or those who may be in the care of another authority but living in Kirklees.

CLA is based on the following principles:

- Ensuring an appropriately trained Designated Teacher is appointed, who will be responsible for all CLA.
- All CLA will have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) drawn up between the school, the child, and the child's social worker, which will identify the child's individual needs and the support they require
- Having high expectations for the child and ensuring equal access to a balanced and broadly-based education.
- Recording, monitoring, and improving the academic achievement of the child in addition to their health and wellbeing and mental health.
- Achieving stability and continuity.
- Prioritising reduction in exclusions and promoting attendance.
- Promoting inclusion through challenging and changing attitudes.
- Promoting good communication between all those involved in the child's life and listening to the child.
- Maintaining and respecting the child's confidentiality wherever possible.
- Ensuring staff awareness of, and sensitivity to the difficulties and educational disadvantages of CLA.

Rationale

Many children and young people who are in care have suffered abuse or neglect. Despite having as broad a range of abilities as their peers, CLA are particularly vulnerable to underachievement. Nationally, CLA significantly underachieve and are at greater risk of exclusion compared with their peers. Their academic and social progress is likely to be affected by their experiences, and compounded by instability in their personal circumstances. 75% of CLA leave education with no formal qualifications. Only 12% go on to further education compared with 68% of the general population. Helping CLA succeed and providing a better future for them is a key priority in our school.

Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School recognises that CLA can experience specific and significant disadvantage within a school setting, and is committed to ensuring that they reach their potential in all areas. We are aware that CLA may have specific difficulties in transport and attendance, doing homework, getting parental consent for activities, obtaining funding for extra activities, obtaining correct uniform and equipment, as well as stigma about their circumstances. Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School recognises that CLA may have very specific needs and may be coping with trauma, abuse or rejection, and are likely to experience personal distress and uncertainty.

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Hanging Heaton C of E (VC) J & I School believes that the educational experience of all children should be positive and powerful and aims to provide a learning environment in which every CLA can be successful. We believe that this school has a major part to play in ensuring that CLA are able to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy, achieve, make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic wellbeing.

Responsibility of the Head teacher

- Identify a Designated Teacher for CLA, whose role is set out below.
- Ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the admission, progress, attendance and any exclusion of CLA and take action where progress, conduct or attendance is below expectations.
- Report on the progress, attendance and conduct of CLA to all parties involved.
- Ensure that staff in school receive relevant training and are aware of their responsibilities under this policy and related guidance.
- Ensure CLA children's mental health and well-being is catered for through the curriculum and through 1-1 sessions with the class teacher.

Responsibility of the Governing Body

- Ensure that all Governors are fully aware of the legal requirements and guidance on the education of CLA: The Education (Admission of LAC England) Regulations 2006. Relevant DfE guidance to Governing Bodies (Supporting Looked After Learners: A Practical Guide for School Governors).
- Ensure that the school has an overview of the needs and progress of CLA.
- Allocate resources to meet the needs of CLA.
- Ensure the school's other policies and procedures support their needs.
- Ensure that the school has a Designated Teacher, and that the Designated Teacher is enabled to carry out his or her responsibilities as below.
- Support the Head teacher, the Designated Teacher and other staff in ensuring that the needs of CLA are recognised and met.
- Receive a termly report setting out: 1. The number of looked-after pupils on the school's roll (if any). 2. Their attendance, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils. 3. Their Teacher Assessment, as a discrete group, compared to other pupils. 4. The number of fixed term and permanent exclusions (if any). 5. The destinations of pupils who leave the school. 6. The information for this report should be collected and reported in ways that preserve the anonymity and respect the confidentiality of the pupils concerned.

The Role of the Designated Teacher

- Ensure a welcome and smooth induction for the child and their carer, using the Personal Education Plan to plan for that transition in consultation with the child's social worker and arrangements are put in place to ensure their needs identified and met. This may include providing basic equipment and resources if necessary and providing appropriate support in meeting uniform requirements if needed.
- Ensure that a Personal Education Plan is completed with the child, the social worker, the foster carer and any other relevant people, at least two weeks before the Care Plan reviews.

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- Maintaining an up-to-date record of the CLA in school, including those in the care of other authorities and ensuring all necessary information is passed to other staff as required.
- Ensure that each CLA has an identified member of staff that they can talk to. This need not be the Designated Teacher, but should be based on the child's own wishes.
- Track academic progress and target support appropriately.
- Co-ordinate any support for the CLA that is necessary within school liaising with teaching and non-teaching staff in school, including the person responsible for Child Protection as well as pastoral and subject staff to ensure they are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages CLAs may face.
- Establish and maintain regular contact with home, statutory and voluntary agencies.
- Ensure confidentiality for individual pupils, sharing personal information on a need to know basis.
- Promote inclusion in all areas of school life and encourage CLA to join in extracurricular activities and out of school learning.
- Act as an advisor to staff and Governors, raising their awareness of the needs of CLA.
- Set up meetings with relevant parties where the pupil is experiencing difficulties in school or is at risk of exclusion.
- Ensure the rapid transfer of information between individuals, agencies and if the pupil changes school - to a new school.
- Be pro-active in supporting transition and planning when moving to a new phase in education.
- Be aware that 60% of CLA say they are bullied, so will actively monitor and prevent bullying in school by raising awareness through the school's anti-bullying policy.
- Ensure that attendance is monitored.
- Attending training as required to keep fully informed of latest developments and policies regarding CLA.

The responsibility of the all staff

- Have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievement of CLA, as for all pupils.
- Maintain CLA's confidentiality and ensure they are supported sensitively.
- Respond promptly to the Designated Teacher's requests for information.
- Work to enable CLA to achieve stability and success within school.
- Promote the self-esteem of all CLA.
- Have an understanding of the key issues that affect the learning of CLA.

Confidentiality

Information on CLA will be shared with school staff on a "need to know" basis, which complies with GDPR regulations.

The Designated Teacher will discuss what information is shared with which school staff at the PEP meeting. Once this has been agreed with the social worker, carer, young person, and other parties, complete confidentiality is to be maintained.

Record keeping and information sharing

The Designated Teacher will keep an up-to-date record of CLA and Young People in school and will ensure that relevant information is made known to appropriate staff.

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A Personal Education Plan will be initiated within 20 school days of the Looked After Child or Young Person starting at the school or being taken into care and will be reviewed regularly and as necessary and appropriate to meet the needs of the CLA/YP. The PEP will provide a regular opportunity to review progress, note any concerns and ensure that all relevant parties are informed accordingly.

Copies of reports and appropriate documentation will be sent to authorised carers and agencies involved with the child as well as any receiving school at point of transition.

It is vital that the Looked After Child or Young Person is aware of information being recorded, in what circumstances and who will have access to it. How this is shared with them will depend on their age and level of understanding.

Staff development and training

Arrangements will be made to ensure that the Designated Teacher is kept up to date with developments relating to the education and attainment of CLA.

Other staff will receive relevant training and support to enable them to work sympathetically and productively with CLA, including those who are underachieving or at risk of underachieving or who have additional needs. These may include EAL, being Gifted and Talented or having learning or physical needs.

Teachers with responsibility for Special Educational Needs provision and for children who are Gifted and Talented will be informed of those CLA who have particular gifts, talents or learning needs and will work with them appropriately.

Support and resources

The Governing body will ensure that the school allocates resources, including professional time and expertise, to support appropriate provision for CLA, meeting the objectives set out in this policy.

Links with other agencies

The school recognises the value of working together with other agencies and organisations and will work closely with colleagues from services involved with the Looked After Child or Young Person including Social Care teams; Educational Psychologist; Health Services, and CAMHS

Reviewed Sept 26

To be reviewed Sept 27